

College Expects 1000 for Early Registration

More than 1000 students are expected to take advantage of El Camino College's new early registration plan for evening students according to Meri Sloan, Director of Student Personnel. Beginning at 8:30 p.m. tomorrow, the priority schedule will continue until Sept. 3.

This will be the only opportunity Sloan said, for employed students to avoid the long lines and closed classes faced by students registering later. This year students living outside the El Camino district must obtain clearance from the college Registration Office before permission to enroll will be granted.

A record 6000 enrollment is expected with increase in all areas of the curriculum according to this college official. Information may be obtained by calling MEMO 4-6831 or Plymouth 6-1421. El Camino is a tuition-free community college.



JUST CHECKING . . . Donna Shelley, a batch machine operator at the Torrance National Bank, shows Velda Venable how her new ThriftCheck Plan checks will be processed with the aid of the complicated banking machine. The new ThriftCheck plan will go into effect at the local bank tomorrow.

Driver Thinks Fast, Misses Dog—Hits House

Russell S. Carter, 2242 Susana Ave., had his choice of hitting a dog or a house Friday, and chose the house. Driving his car along Susana Ave. near Rockview Dr., Carter swerved to avoid a dog, jumped a curb and plowed into the home of E. C. Terry, 23212 Susana Ave., according to police records. No damage was reported.

Finch Opens Law Office In Palos Verdes Plaza

For the convenience of their Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, and Hollywood Riviera clients, the law firm of Finch, Bell, Duitman & Jekel announced the opening of a Palos Verdes office in Room 4 of the Plaza Building, effective Aug. 24th.

The members of the firm, Robert H. Finch, Arthur S. Bell, Jr., Roger G. Duitman and William D. Jekel, announced that consultations will be by appointment only and may be arranged by calling PRontier 5-3495 or ORgon 8-5488.

Telescope

(Continued from Page 1) \$1000, and the next day about it, he says, is that "anyone can build one."

Harris learned his vast lore of knowledge of astronomy at the Torrance Library by reading the large amount of literature there on the subject. He built his telescope by following the instructions in a book called "How To Make A Telescope," which is available to anyone with a library card.

His telescope is made to the same design as the 200-inch reflector on Mt. Wilson. The mirror in the telescope was hand-polished by Harris for 100 hours and is accurate to three millionths of an inch.

By combining certain eyepieces, Harris can get 600-power with his sky viewer—power enough to bring the moon to within 400 miles of the earth. The telescope looks like a clumsy, burdensome object, but looks are deceiving. It comes apart in 10 to 15 minutes, Harris says.

The castings on the scope were tooled by Harris at his place of employment, the Lee Miller Co. in Gardena, which manufactures awnings. The range-finder, used to line up the object to be viewed, was taken from a German artillery piece and given to Harris by his brother.

Mirror Has Power The power of the mirror in the telescope is such that if a speck were to make the mistake of peaking into the eyepiece while the scope was focused on the sun, the rays would boil his eyeball out in a matter of seconds.

The sun can be studied, however, by placing a filter over the lens and over the eyepiece. This filter arrangement enabled Harris and this reporter to discover a sun spot, one of the first to appear this month. In fact, if the Palomar observers overslept Friday morning, they may have been the first viewers in the area to see the spot, but Palomar observers are notoriously early risers when sun spots are in the offing so "sic transit gloria."

Works on Impossibility In the field of discovery, Harris is presently working on a project which is, in his own words, "impossible." He intends to study the dark half of the moon in an attempt to see a meteor hit it. Since the moon is not supposed to have an atmosphere, a meteor striking it would not show—since the meteor's fire needs oxygen in which to burn.

He doesn't stop Harris. Some astronomers have claimed to have seen meteors strike the dark side of the moon. If so, and if it can be proven, the theory that the moon lacks an atmosphere will go out the window.

In his scanning of the mountains, volcanoes and craters of the earth's satellite, Harris has seen things that lead him to believe that the moon has an atmosphere. His guess is that there is a type of gas there, heavier than oxygen, that lies on the bottom of the moon's great craters and freezes. When the sun hits this frozen gas, it vaporizes and obscures the bottom of these craters—or such is his theory.

This, then, is the world of amateur astronomy—a world whose mysteries can be possessed by anyone with the time and patience. The Los Angeles Astronomical Society, which has 250 members, meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Griffith Park Observatory. Information can be obtained by writing to the society secretary at 1000 N. Seward, Hollywood.

Harris is in charge of a class at the observatory, in which he teaches other members of the society to build telescopes as he did.

Previous Prize Won The society's award to Harris for the best telescope is the second such prize he has won. Two years ago a contest was held for the best telescope made at the least cost. Harris won with a telescope that he made out of "an old auto axle and a fence post," at a total cost of \$40.

Harris says that finding time to pursue his hobby is hard, but that anyone who has the time and a lot of patience and fortitude can make a finer instrument for viewing the stars



NEXT JOB . . . Clarke Harris studies a small model of his next projected telescope, which will revolve on a special base. The model is displayed on his work bench, and some of the many tools used in the hobby of astronomy are shown in the background. On the right, (inset) is the mirror used in Harris' prize winning telescope, showing a distorted image of the astronomer's face. It took Harris 100 hours of slow, careful hand polishing to bring the mirror to its present degree of accuracy—it is accurate to three millionths of an inch.

Reflections

By J. HUGH SHERFEY, JR.

SAILOR LOST DAD'S GIFT

Daddy, I'm aboard a cruiser in the Orient, bought gifts for mom and special ones for dad—a solid ivory cue tip and an exquisitely carved paper weight. Arriving in San Francisco he carried mom's gifts in his duffel bag but dad's gifts were in a separate case and carried like Crown jewels. During a hitch-hike ride he told his best what he had for his parents and when he neared his destination his eyes sparkled with excitement. He saw the Post Office. "Let me out here," he cried happily, grabbed his duffel bag, stepped to the street. The car shot up the highway. Daddy shouted, Yelled! Ran! The car disappeared with dad's precious gifts. Boy! I'll never see his checks. He's checking to tell his parents, "I don't know the make of car, the man's name, his address nor his destination," looked at dad. "Your gifts are in that car."

Seven days were left of his precious leave. On the fourth day the newspaper published a letter from an O. L. Bowers. "Sailor left his gift in my car. Identify it and I'll send Air Mail, Special Delivery."

Daddy called him. On the last day while packing, a Special Delivery Messenger handed him the case. Mom cried, dad smiled while Daddy proudly, happily, handed his father the cue tip and ivory paper weight. There was love and communion as father and son shook hands.

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Bank Offers New Personalized Checking Service

Beginning August 24th, the Torrance National Bank will offer a great improvement in its special checking department. This is in addition to its regular checking facilities. "ThriftCheck" at the improved service is called, is a simplified, low-cost, no-minimum balance checking account plan. In announcing the improved service R. J. Deininger, vice-president of the bank stated "ThriftCheck places the convenience and prestige of a personalized checking account within easy reach of everyone. There are no complicated charges per item of deposit, no fixed balance requirements and a person may open an account with a small amount, even as little as one dollar is sufficient to start."

The entire cost of the service is covered by a charge of 10 cents per check. There is no monthly service charge and no charge for deposits. The checks are issued to depositors in a handsome Duratex cover containing regulation book of 20 checks.

A feature of this service is the fact that the customer's name is printed on all checks and delivered immediately with the opening of an account. This is part of the service and is rendered by the bank without additional charge.

Deininger stated "ThriftCheck is quite simple in principle and operation—there is no red tape to opening an account—this is usually accomplished within five minutes and includes presentation to the customer of his or her personalized check book."

Sent To Kingsville, Tex.

Kingsville, Tex., is the home of Naval Air Jet Training and training center for many Navy fighter pilots. It recently became the duty station of Richard D. Preston, aerographer's mate second class, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest D. Preston of 21828 Moneta Ave.

LAW IN ACTION

SUFFICIENT CONSIDERATION IN CONTRACTS A contract needs to provide for a "sufficient consideration."

Each party must receive something. Suppose you promise to deliver your car to me in return for \$700. The "consideration" I receive is your car, and your "consideration" is my \$700.

Suppose I plan to add a room on my house which cuts off your view. You say: "Don't build that room and I'll give you my car." If I do not build it, my forbearance makes your promise binding. Out of this transaction, we both get something we want—a consideration.

The consideration may be an object, a promise, or an act. The law says only that such considerations must have value in the eyes of both parties.

Informal Contracts Many think that contracts are set up amidst rolls of red tape. But most contracts are informal. Mere hand signals in the Chicago Pit show the consent of the parties to the prices and amounts of grain bought and sold. A housewife doing her shopping enters into many informal contracts every week without knowing it.

NOTE: The State Bar of California offers this column for your information so that you may know more about how to act under our laws.

Four Homes Hit By Burglars; Net Take, \$260

A wave of four home burglaries in the area during the weekend of Aug. 16 netted the thieves \$200 at one house, \$40 at another, and nothing at two others, reports by Torrance police officers indicated.

Heaviest loser was John R. Reynolds, 17118 S. Wilkie Ave., who reported to Detective Sergeant Percy Bennett that someone pried his bedroom window open on Aug. 16 and stole \$200. The Reynolds home was one of three in North Torrance which burglars broke into during the weekend.

Also entered was the home of Sisco De Verne, 16821 Camfir Ave. However, nothing was stolen, the police reports stated.

Still another North Torrance home entered was a new house at 18808 Kristin Ave.—less than a block away from the De Verne residence.

In Central Torrance Mrs. A. Thielen, 1010 Sierra Pl., reported to police that her purse containing \$60 had disappeared from her home. She told Torrance police at 8:50 p.m. on Aug. 16 that she heard a noise, went to investigate and detected the loss.

RETAILERS JOB

Spaniards' retail coal merchants handled more than 66 million tons of coal in 1950.

PEACH SOURCE

Spaniards introduced the peach into America in the early 19th Century.

Rites Held for Mrs. Marie Pick

Funeral services were held yesterday at St. Catherine Labourer Church for Marie Pick, 61, of 18415 Crenshaw Blvd., who died Thursday.

Catholic services were conducted by the Rev. Raymond J. Tepe and interment followed at Holy Cross Cemetery.

A rosary was recited Friday evening and a Requiem Mass was said at St. Catherine's Labourer Church yesterday morning.

Mrs. Pick is survived by a son, Lloyd A. Pick, of 18415 Crenshaw; two brothers, Louis A. Basini, of Los Angeles, and Mario Basini, of Hartford, Conn.; and a grandson, Lloyd Barry Pick.

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City's Assessed Valuation Hits \$67,712,100 Mark

The assessed valuation of Torrance hit \$67,712,100 this year, according to final figures released Thursday by the County Assessor's office.

This is a gain of more than 12 per cent over last year's \$60,121,630 valuation, according to City Manager George Stevens, and is very close to Stevens' estimate of \$67,000,000, made when the tentative city budget was prepared for the current fiscal year.

The increase is due in most part to the tremendous home building boom and industrial improvements here, Stevens said.

Pvt. Leonard L. Reid On Duty in Germany

Pvt. Leonard L. Reid, whose parents live at 1636 Fern Ave., recently arrived in Germany for duty with the 28th Infantry Division.

The 28th Division is now receiving intensive field training as part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) force on guard in western Europe.

Private Reid entered the Army last February and completed basic training at Camp Roberts. A 1950 graduate of Torrance High School, he was a student at El Camino Junior College before entering the Army.

Reid could be bought. Every piece of an amateur-made telescope is brought with loving care, to perfection, and because of this perfection, many major discoveries in the field of astronomy have been made by amateurs, says Harris.

The building of his telescope brought to reality a desire held by Harris since he was a small boy to own a powerful telescope. Now that he has it, he is going on to greater fields—the fields of discovery. In 1950, for example, every amateur astronomer in the world will be observing every night observing, for that is the year that the planet Mars will be the closest that it ever comes to our Earth.

What dark mysteries of that strange planet will he solve? What eternal questions will be answered? Build a telescope, all you outsiders, and find out.

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STADIUM SUN. - MON. - TUES David Wayne - Eslo Plaza "Tonight We Sing" In Technicolor plus Broderick Crawford Wanda Hendrix - J. Derek "THE LAST POSSE"

Junior Leaders Named for Scout Training Course

Ten outstanding junior leaders from this district have been chosen as representatives to the Boy Scout Junior Leader Training Course, to be held on Sept. 12 at Griffith Park.

They will meet in an all-day session with "top" junior leaders from all districts under the Los Angeles Area Boy Scout Council. The purpose of this session is to give advanced training in outdoor, scouting, skill to the boys, so that they may in turn pass along their advanced knowledge at local training conferences this fall.

From this district, Dennis Coll, 1661 W. 218th St., and Ralph Quinley, 327 W. Carson St., who were honored earlier this summer by being chosen for the advanced "36 Day Adventure" Leader's Training Course at Philmont Ranch, will join with the other "Philmont" Scouts at the Sept. 12 session, to demonstrate the skills learned there.

The remaining eight boys from the Harbor district who will attend the trainer session are Laurie Banks, Billy Haslam, John Christie, Earle Fisher, Jim Stanford, Larry Glavinis, Ray Preston, and Paul Clines.

Ceremonies open at 10 a.m., followed by introductions and orientation. Some subjects covered during the day will be: the job of junior leaders in troop and patrol meetings and hiking and camping with troop and patrol. The boys will cook their own meals and end the session with a campfire at night.

Frank Parks, Training Chairman for the Los Angeles Area Boy Scout Council, is guiding this Trainer Session for junior leaders. An adult training team and a staff advisor from each district will also be on hand for the day.

WARNING

Pay only \$6.00 down for State Law Auto Liability Insurance. Also Insurance for Minors. James White Co. INSURANCE HEADQUARTERS, 10th & San Vicente Blvd. Manhattan Beach - FR 2-6990

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